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**FEDERAL GRAND JUROR SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR DISCLOSING INFORMATION**

**(DEL RIO, TEXAS)** A Del Rio man will spend the next 14 months in federal prison after he disclosed federal grand jury information to a target of an ongoing criminal investigation.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia sentenced 37-year-old **MARCO GARCIA** to the 14-month prison term followed by three years of supervised release. On December 2, 2001, a jury convicted Garcia on one count of obstruction of justice.

The jury found that on or about April 18, 2001, Marco Garcia was excused from the grand jury after he informed the other members that he did not want to be a part of the proceedings considering a drug case against Terry Sparkman (Case # DR-01-CR-226). After being dismissed that day, Garcia drove to Sparkman's place of employment and informed Sparkman of the grand jury's actions. Garcia was subsequently removed from Grand Jury service on April 30, 2001.

Noting the seriousness of Garcia's actions, United States Attorney Johnny Sutton stated, "When citizens take the oath to serve as grand jurors, they vow to keep secret the information that is presented in Grand Jury sessions. Breaking that oath of secrecy destroys trust, compromises investigations, and jeopardizes the safety of both witnesses and agents."

This case was investigated by the United States Customs Service and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert Cadena.

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